GT. 10-30-93

Events to mark a year since Amendment 2 passag

Gazette Telegraph

Tuesday marks the first anniversary of the passage of Amendment 2, the voter-approved law that's never taken effect.

A number of events are planned in Colorado Springs, the birthplace of Amendment 2, to mark the event.

Amendment 2 bans laws that would protect gays from discrimination based on their sexual orientation. A Denver judge put it on hold and is now sifting through evidence presented at a recently completed trial on its constitutionality.

The local events are sponsored by Ground Zero, an advocacy group for gay rights. "We think people have certainly been challenged to think more about this issue. How could you not, with everything that's been in the press," said Franklin Whitworth, spokesman for the group.

Will Perkins, co-founder of Colorado for Family Values, which authored the amendment, said his group has no activities planned.

Events planned in Colorado Springs include:

Monday and Nov. 8 and 15: The Southern Colorado AIDS Project will present a three-part HIV/AIDS Caregivers Workshop from 6 to 8 p.m. at 514 S. Tejon St. Only those who plan to attend all three sessions are being registered. Call 578-9092 for information.

Wednesday: A candlelight vigil will begin at 6 p.m. at Acacia Park and travel to First Congregational Church, 20 E. St. Vrain St., where Donna Redwing, who led the battle against a similar law in Oregon, will speak. LaGuia, a Hispanic gay and lesbian group affiliated with Ground Zero, will also present a program.

Thursday: A benefit for Ground Zero is scheduled from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St. It includes a buffet and music by Geoff Cleveland and Friends. Tickets are $15 for one and $25 for two. Call 635-6086 for information.

Nov. 6: The Diversity [illegible] will present "A Celebrat[ion] Diversity" at 8 p.m. at T[he] kebrush Center, 235 S. [illegible] Ave. Tickets are $6.

Nov. 7: Dignity of So[uth] Colorado, a gay Catholi[c] will sponsor a prayer v[igil] commemoration at 4 p.[m.] Shove Chapel, Colorad[o]

Group halts anti-amendment petition drive

Associated Press

A group lobbying to repeal Amendment 2 has given up a last-ditch petition drive set for today because it didn't have enough volunteers.

People for a Stronger Colorado hoped to replace the amendment with statewide gay-rights protections. But the group is thousands of petition signatures short of its goal to get a proposal on the 1994 ballot.

The petitions are due at the secretary of state's office by Nov. 5.

Daniel Brewer-Ward, who led the petition drive, said calling off today's volunteer drive doesn't necessarily mean the end to his proposal.

"It would take a miracle . . . We're past getting miracles now," Brewer-Ward said.

Brewer-Ward said he had more than 50,000 signatures of registered voters. But he needed to turn in 71,000 to account for the tens of thousands of signatures customarily invalidated by the secretary of state's office.

Amendment 2, under constitutional scrutiny by Denver District Court Judge Jeffrey Bayless, would prohibit laws that protect gays from discrimination based on their sexual orientation.

Many gay-rights activists have said it is too late to launch a repeal effort for 1994. They point to recent polls in which voters say they would refuse to repeal Amendment 2.

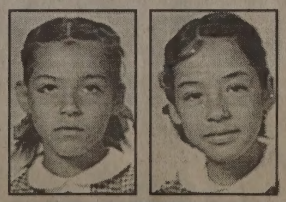
A spokesman for Equality Colorado, another group lobbying for gay rights, said Brewer-Ward's group helped create "positive energy in working for civil rights for gays."

But Lawrence Pacheco said the polls and research would indicate that withdrawing a gay-rights amendment proposal would be in the best interest of the lesbian and gay community right now.

"The feeling is it would be too difficult to put together an effective campaign in one year's time," said John Camerlo, treasurer of the Colorado Human Rights Action Council.

"It's obviously something that would have taken a lot of education to be successful," Camerlo said, "and if we had tried again and failed, we'd be even weaker than before."

Nifty, Nifty— the twins are 50!



Lordy, Lordy Joey's 40!

e Academy and the University of Texas at El Paso. ings barely received an inch of the cold, white stuff, corded at the academy. Complete report/B2, C3

LAST IN A SERIES

This is the last of four reports on key issues facing public education in advance of Tuesday's school board elections. On Sunday, the Gazette Telegraph will publish the candidates' views on the issues, a synopsis of various ballot questions and a complete list of polling places in El Paso and Teller counties.

WEDNESDAY: Many Pikes Peak area schools face a problem: In the future they'll likely have more students and less money to spend on them.

THURSDAY: School board candidates are overwhelmingly behind a mandate from lawmakers for stricter discipline in the public schools. But they aren't so sure how to answer the tougher question: When young people are kicked out of school, where should they go?

FRIDAY: In the language of educators, it's "outcome-based education." In reality, it means something different to everyone. For the first time, the state will require schools to set specific standards and keep students back until they've mastered academic subjects.

TODAY: Debates are arising over how far public schools should go in teaching respect for others, self-esteem, sex education and other topics traditionally learned in the home.

POLICE

ps pawn shop workers take a byte out of crime

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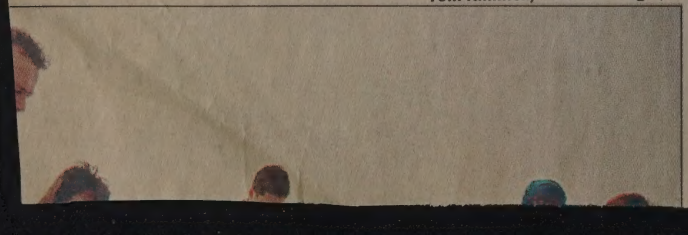
East on East Platte Avenue got suspicious when a man brought a bundle of such equipment through their door. When the man left, employees plugged in a computer.

The first thing that came up on the screen was the owner's name, address and telephone number. The pawn shop workers called the number and asked the victim whether he knew his computer was missing.

A short time later, El Paso County Sheriff's deputies arrested Reed, 24, of Colorado Springs. He is being held at the El Paso County Criminal Justice Center where he was booked on two counts of second-degree burglary and 12 counts of theft. His bond is $10,000.

Deputies believe the crack in this case will help them clear 11 other burglaries; they recovered about $20,000 worth of stolen goods at area pawn shops.

Tom Kimmell/Gazette Telegraph



WEATHER

Modern forecast system endures storm of protest

The National Weather
Service says it's